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Illinois.University--College of Agric  
Illinois farm flash.







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SIXTY-SECOND  
ILLINOIS FARM FLASH

(From the U. S. Department of Agriculture  
(and Extension Service in Agriculture and  
(Home Economics, College of Agriculture,  
(University of Illinois

RECEIVED

DEC 1 1939

AM 11:03.

Speaking time: 7 1/2 minutes

November 30, 1939

(FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY)

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT: (:15) Station \_\_\_\_\_ again brings you the ILLINOIS FARM FLASH in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture and the College of Agriculture, University of Illinois. Today we'll hear about LIMESTONE, INSECTS OF STORED CORN and MAIN FACTS ON CORN LOAN.

\* \* \* \* \*

(2:00) Here are the main facts about the 1939 corn loan that was recently announced by the Department of Agriculture.

First, the rates: In the commercial corn area---57 cents a bushel; 55 cents for mixed corn; the rate in areas where loans are made outside the commercial area, 43 cents a bushel.

Second, who is eligible for loans: In the commercial corn area, farmers who planted within their 1939 corn acreage allotments -----and the corn has been measured-----can obtain loans. Outside the commercial area, farmers who planted within their total soil-depleting acreage allotments in 1939, and are cooperating in the Agricultural Conservation Program, can obtain loans.

Third, changes in 1939, compared with 1938 corn loans: Farmers this year will find it simpler and easier to obtain their loans. Also, the interest and insurance will cost them less. Under the simplified procedure, a farmer normally will be able to complete his loan with one trip to the county Triple-A office, providing he has previously notified the office that he intends to get a loan. Then,



if a local bank is handling corn loans, the farmer can take his note directly from the county Triple-A office to the bank and get his money. Interest has been reduced from 4 percent to 3 percent, and insurance charges will be lower, too.

Fourth, time to obtain loans: Farmers can obtain loans between December 1, 1939, and March 31, 1940. The loans will fall due August 1, 1940.

Fifth, moisture content: No loans on corn with moisture content greater than  $20\frac{1}{2}$  percent.

Those are the main facts about the new corn loan program as outlined by the Triple-A. Officials say more farmers are eligible for loans this year than in 1938 because more farmers have taken part in the program.

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(3:00) Illinois farmers must be on the lookout for grain insects in 1939, according to M. D. Farrar of the State Natural History Survey. The infestation is general south of a line drawn east and west across the state from Vermilion to Pike Counties.

By shelling out a few typical ears, farmers can get a general idea of the corn grade. Shelled corn that will grade number two or three---because of insect damage---should not be held into next summer. Farrar says that if such ear corn can be fed or marketed before warm weather next spring, probably very little additional damage will occur between now and spring. With outdoor temperatures below 50 degrees, very little insect activity can take place in ear corn.

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---number 497. Another circular---number 489---"How to Stop Weevil Damage in Stored Grain" may be useful if fumigation is desirable. These circulars, numbers 497 and 489, may be secured from your local farm adviser or by writing directly to the University of Illinois College of Agriculture at Urbana.

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(2:00) Fifty million tons of limestone are needed to correct the acidity of Illinois soils, according to C. M. Linsley of the College of Agriculture, University of Illinois. Linsley goes on to say that we probably need to apply close to two million tons a year to maintain the present lime content of the soil. So you can see that we need to step up our limestone use in this state if we are going to do a reasonably good job of conserving Illinois soils.

Why don't more Illinois farmers use limestone? Well---there are a number of reasons. Probably we don't recognize the need and the benefits of the use of limestone and the growing of good clover crops as a soil improvement program. But one of the reasons most frequently given by farmers is they can't afford it. An honest reason too---in some cases. However, bankers and other lending agencies usually would rather loan money for limestone than for any other purpose. They know an investment in soil building is a sound investment and one of the most profitable a farmer can make.

As a matter of fact, a farmer pays for limestone whether he uses it or not. He pays for it in failures, low crop yields, poor quality feed and a number of other ways. So some farmers say as long as they're paying for it they might as well use it.

The first part of the paper discusses the importance of the study of the history of the United States. It is pointed out that the study of history is not only a means of understanding the past, but also a means of understanding the present and the future. The author argues that the study of history is essential for the development of a nation and for the progress of the world.

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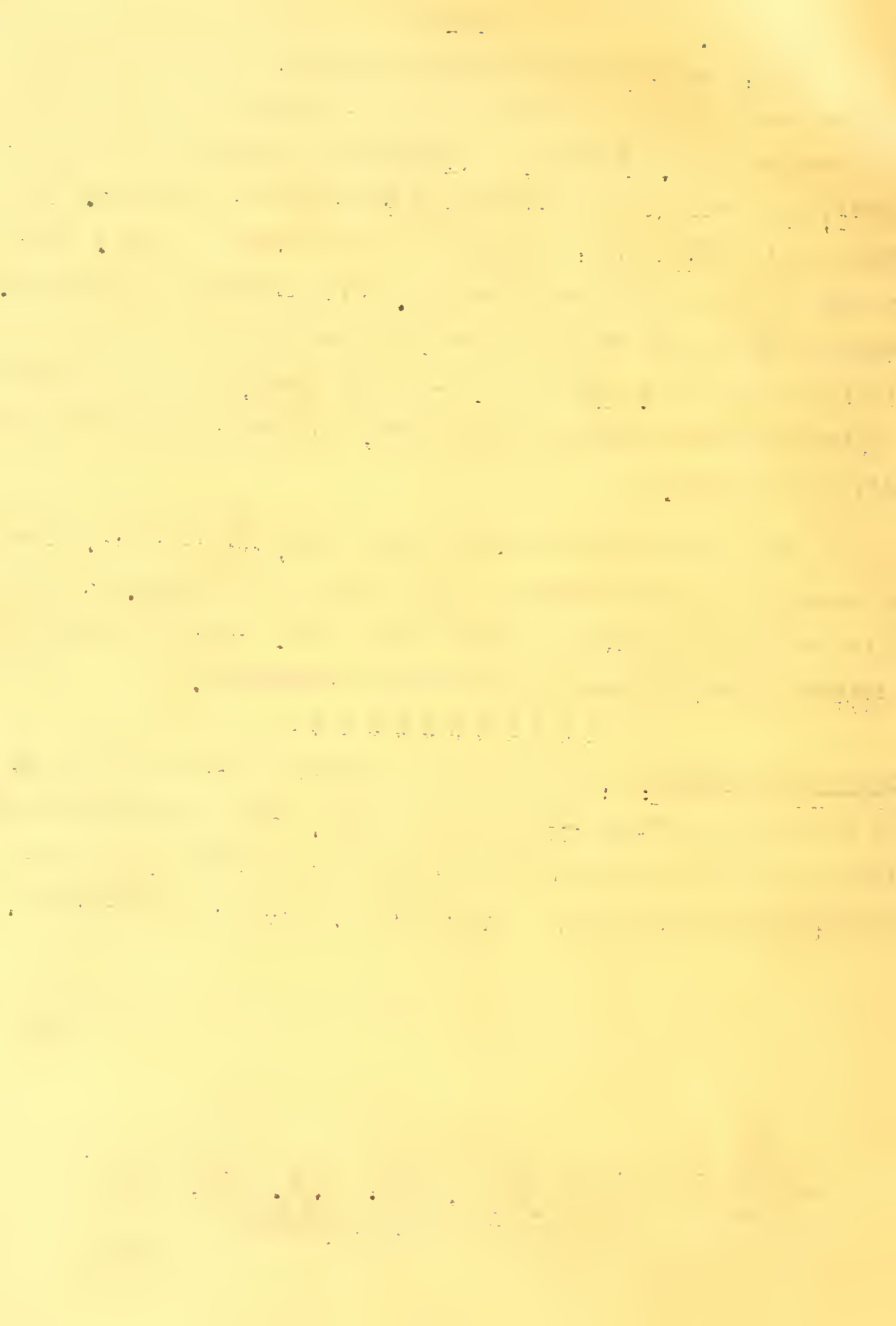
That's exactly what one Illinois farmer in Edwards county did a few years ago when he was hopelessly in debt on an 80-acre farm with a worn-out soil. Finally, he decided the only way out was to lime his soil, grow legumes and build up the fertility of that soil. But members of his family didn't approve of going further in debt. They felt sure it would mean losing the farm. His attitude was different. He knew the farm would be lost anyway, but one hope was to build up the fertility of the soil. He did it. In a few years, he not only limed the entire 80 acres, paid out on his farm, but has since purchased an additional 90 acres.

The story may sound like a fairy tale, but it isn't. There are hundreds of similar examples in all parts of the state. So plan now to lime at least a portion of your farm in 1940. You'll receive a ten-to fifteen-dollar dividend on a two-dollar investment.

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CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENT: (:15) As a public service of Station \_\_\_\_\_ we have brought you another ILLINOIS FARM FLASH. These agricultural reports come to you in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture and the College of Agriculture, University of Illinois.

Printed in furtherance of the Agricultural Extension Act approved by Congress May 8, 1914. H. P. Rusk, Director  
Extension Service in Agriculture and Home Economics  
University of Illinois, Urbana



DEC 5 1939

Speaking time: 7½ minutes.

December 4, 1939

(FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY)

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT: ( :20) As a public service of Station \_\_\_\_\_ we again bring you the ILLINOIS FARM FLASH. These agricultural reports are presented in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture and the College of Agriculture, University of Illinois. Today we'll hear about FIRE BLIGHT, GRAIN FIELDS AS WINTER INSECT HARBORS, CONTOUR FARMING THAT REDUCES EROSION AND BOOSTS CROP YIELDS and LIME-STONE.

(2:00) Plan now to spread more limestone in 1940.

Years of hard farming, through the growing of grain crops without legumes, have depleted our soils of the organic matter and nitrogen and other fertility elements, says C. M. Linsley of the University of Illinois College of Agriculture. This system of farming has resulted in decreased productivity on both level and rolling land. In addition, continued cultivation along with the decreased organic matter has made the rolling land much more susceptible to erosion.

In order to bring back the productivity of both level and rolling land to check erosion, good crops of legumes such as sweet clover, red clover or alfalfa must be grown in rotation, in pastures and in meadows. Since a large percentage of the soils in the state are already acid and are becoming more acid each year, the liming of this land is one of our most important soil problems, according to Linsley.

Linsley says that any attempt to side-step the liming of acid land in a long-time improvement program by promoting the growing





of acid-tolerant legumes and grasses as soil-improving and soil-conserving crops is doomed to failure. The continued use of these crops to the exclusion of our more desirable soil-building legumes will only make a bad situation worse. The meager growth of these crops on strongly acid land will not materially build up the organic matter and nitrogen content of the soil nor will it furnish feed efficiently. As a matter of fact the continued growing of these crops under strongly acid conditions means continued soil depletion.

It should be kept in mind that acid land must eventually be limed if it is to continue to be farmed. The longer liming is delayed the more difficult it will be to finance the liming program from a decreasing income from the land.

Plan now to spread more limestone in 1940.

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(2:00) Now a word about grain fields as a winter harbor for insects.

Grain fields are winter insect harbors if proper attention is not given to seedbed preparation and seeding time, according to J. H. Bigger of the State Natural History Survey.

The most important of the insects that may be in the wheat field is the Hessian fly. The normal life cycle of this insect has it spending the winter in wheat in the flaxseed stage. Whether there will be much fly in the wheat will be determined by the general abundance of fly in the area and infestation opportunities during the fall. Wheat seeded early is always exposed to the possibility of infestation. Later seeded wheat is not likely to be harboring the pests. Then





again, seasonal conditions may vary the situation greatly. Bigger says the fall of 1939 is a good example of this. There was considerable opportunity for infestation last fall as far as wheat-seeding time goes, but there is very little fly in the wheat. This is because dry conditions lasted so long into the fall that the adult flies didn't emerge and lay their eggs in time that the larvae could become established before cold weather. Those eggs that were laid found such unfavorable conditions that the larvae either died before becoming established or were killed by the first freezing weather.

Time of seeding might also influence the presence of other insects such as webworms, armyworms and various cutworms. Early seeding would furnish a location for such insects to establish themselves. But there are few of them this season.

As for other crops, probably winter barley is the next most important crop to consider. Winter barley planted early may well serve as a harbor for insects. Barley is a breeding ground for Hessian fly and may well serve as a nurse area for an abundance of this insect. The early plantings are oftentimes a harbor for cutworms and sod webworms.

In general we should say that grain fields are not places in which to expect to find many insects hibernating, but they might serve as such if proper attention is not given to seedbed preparation and seeding time.

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(1:40) Here's a word for the amateur fruit grower about fire blight of apples and pears. This report comes to us from H. W. Anderson of the University of Illinois College of Agriculture.



Fire blight is caused by bacteria that live through the winter in cankers on the larger limbs, trunks or roots of the apple and pear tree. In the spring they are carried by various agents to the growing tissues such as the blossoms, leaves and tender twigs. Sometimes the disease is known as "blossom blight." It appears some years when the trees are in full bloom. The early stages are often overlooked, and it is only when the entire blossom and spur withers that the grower realizes the disease is present.

The material found most successful for the control of fire blight is a weak Bordeaux mixture applied once or twice during the blooming period. The formula most generally used consists of two pounds of copper sulphate and four to six pounds of hydrated lime in 100 gallons of water. The copper in this mixture is the effective germicide.

If only one spray is used it should be applied when about 25 or 30 percent of the blossoms are open. If possible, two applications should be made; one when about 20 percent of the blossoms are open and another when about 60 to 80 percent are open. This method, however, has certain drawbacks.

One--spraying is costly. Since fire blight may strike only one year in five, two extra sprays may seem to add too much to the already heavy spray schedule. Two, Bordeaux causes a certain amount of russeting of the fruit in some seasons. Three, a complete control is not often secured.

Amateur fruit growers will find leaflet number 187 containing good general information about fire blight. You can secure your free copy by writing to the College of Agriculture, University of Illinois at Urbana.



(1:15) A final note about contour farming that reduces erosion and boosts crop yields.

Curved rows replaced straight ones--and the farmers prospered.

Maybe that's too strong a statement, but something like that is what happened on several Illinois farms during the 1939 crop season, according to a survey report just completed by the U. S. Soil Conservation Service.

Corn yields went up and erosion losses went down on fields farmed on the contour or level instead of up and down in straight rows, the report reveals. Rain was caught in the level furrows and held there for the use of crops--while on up-and-down rows, water ran off as fast as gravity would take it. The runaway rain took soil with it, too--robbing the farms of their basic capital.

Rainfall was above normal in central and southern Illinois during the crop season, but yield differences between contoured and straight-rowed fields were still noticeable.

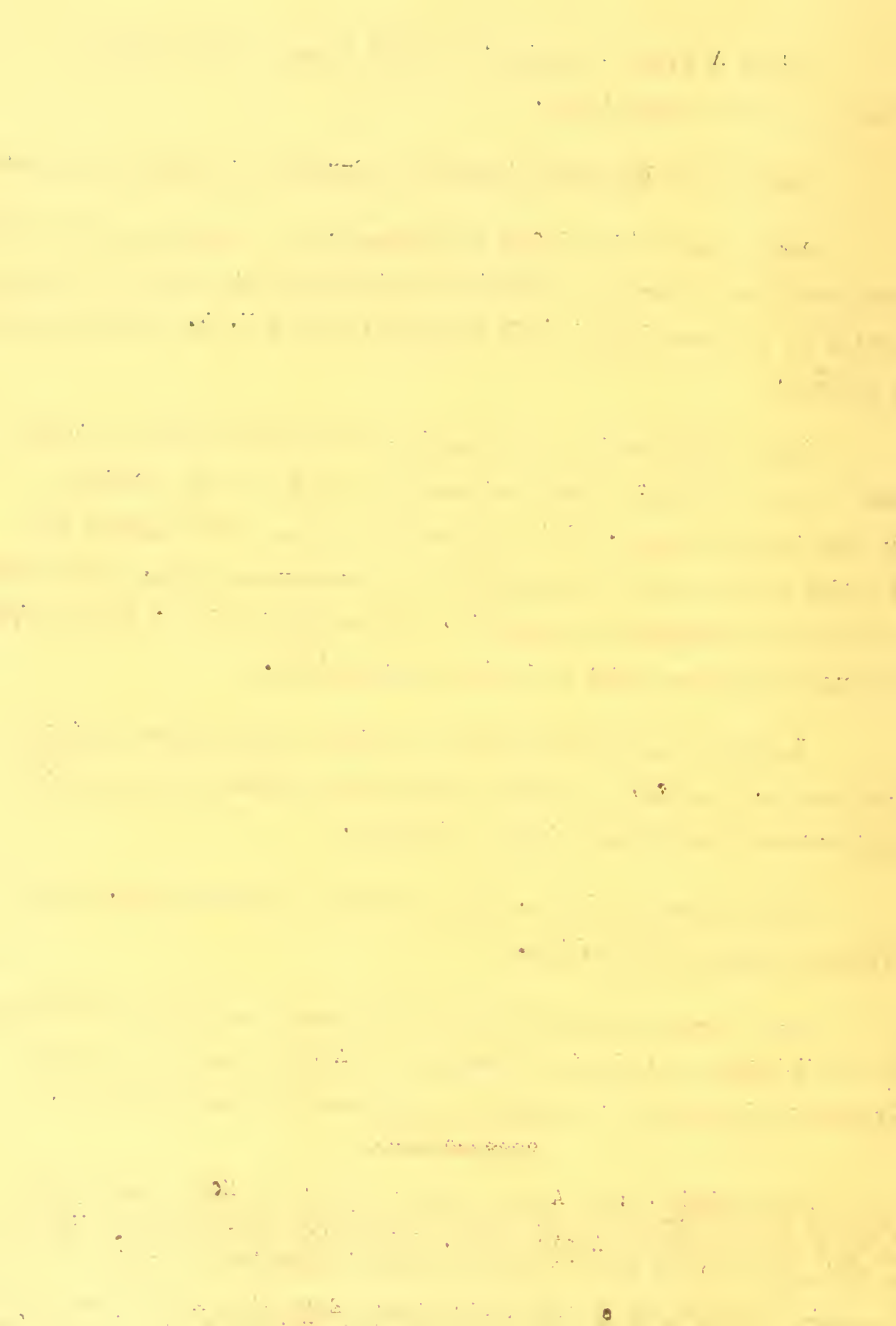
In northern Illinois, where rainfall was subnormal, yield differences were more striking.

The survey covered the land of farmers who are cooperating with the University of Illinois College of Agriculture and the Soil Conservation Service in a program of conservation demonstrations.

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CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENT: (15) And so ends another ILLINOIS FARM FLASH presented in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture and the College of Agriculture, University of Illinois. These agricultural reports come to you as a public service of Station \_\_\_\_\_.

Printed in furtherance of the Agricultural Extension Act, approved by Congress May 8, 1914. H. P. Kusk, Director, Extension Service in Agriculture and Home Economics, University of Illinois, Urbana





SIXTY-FIFTH  
ILLINOIS FARM FLASH

(From the U. S. Department of Agriculture  
(and Extension Service in Agriculture and  
(Home Economics, College of Agriculture,  
(University of Illinois

RECEIVED  
DEC 19 1939

Speaking time: 7½ minutes

December 11, 1939

(FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY)

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT: ( :20) As a public service of Station \_\_\_\_\_  
we again bring you the ILLINOIS FARM FLASH presented in cooperation  
with the United States Department of Agriculture and the College of  
Agriculture, University of Illinois. Today we'll hear about MODERN  
COWS THAT MISS SOMETHING, TRACTOR SCHOOLS and FORESTRY.

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(2:15) One of the most urgent problems on  
which there could be more thinking and action right now is soil erosion,  
according to J. E. Davis, extension forester from the University of  
Illinois College of Agriculture. Davis goes on to say that when soil  
erosion has gone so far that the fields are gashed by deep, threatening  
gullies--then is the time to bring in some trees. Trees are known to  
form the most complete vegetative cover for the control of soil erosion,  
and black locust is the best tree to use for this purpose. The black  
locust grows rapidly and has a fine, fibrous, wide-spreading root  
system that takes a firm hold on the soil. In fact, black locust trees  
have been known to completely heal over a gully in two years.

Speaking of black locust brings up  
another thought. Have you ever wondered about the truck loads of red  
cedar posts you have seen rolling along the highways or being sold in  
your town? Well--those red cedar posts are being trucked all the way  
from Missouri and Arkansas, and are finding a ready market because  
hedge is rapidly being cut out and we're approaching a fence post  
shortage. Now--red cedar makes a good fence post, provided--of course





--it is large enough. But black locust is even better, Davis says. It will last longer. So why spend so much money on imported red cedar when we have thousands of eroded acres here in Illinois that need black locust for erosion control? Locust can be cut and cut and always sprouts right up from the stump to make a new growth.

Black locust seedlings in planting sell for about two dollars a thousand. If you plant them 4 by 4 feet on steep gully banks, it will take about 2,700 trees to the acre. Where erosion is less severe, locust can be planted 6 by 6, and then you'll need about 1,200 trees for each acre.

It may be some of you are wondering just what there is to a job of planting these forest trees. Davis says to stop thinking about apple tree planting because that really would be quite a task. The trees sold from the state nurseries are just little fellows--not like apple trees--they're only 6 to 18 inches tall. And what's more--two inexperienced men can plant about 600 of them in a day. You don't need to work the ground before planting either, and a grub-hoe--or in a pinch, a round pointed shovel--will do the trick.

But you can't plant trees unless you have them. Last year Davis tells us that the state nurseries were sold out by March 1. So place your order early. Your farm adviser has a price list and order blanks. Plan now to earn your share of profits to be gained from tree planting.

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(3:30) Here's a word about the modern cows that miss something.

Did you ever stop to think about this: That your cows out in the stanchions are quite different from the wild cattle back hundreds of years ago? You know, the wild cattle lived in the open on the land, and got all natural foods they needed to keep active and in good health and good fertility. One of these wild cows was able to produce enough milk for a calf a year.

But modern cows spend a good share of the year in the barn, and many of them have been developed to produce enough milk in a year to raise more than half a dozen calves apiece. Some are fed heavily on grain and high-protein concentrates.

Modern cows do well under these unnatural conditions, provided they get the right kind and the right quality of roughage along with the grain and high protein concentrates, and provided they can spend several months each summer on pasture. From pasture, the cows get many known and unknown foods that they need to keep in good condition.

Feeding experts point out that cows on high-quality roughage in winter and on good pasture in summer are sure to get most of the food substances they need.

But there may be a shortage of one or more of 6 different food substances in their ration.

The dairyman needs to make sure the cows get enough of these 6 food substances: protein, fat, vitamin A, vitamin D, phosphorus, and iodine.



First, about the protein. Milking cows that do not get enough protein and the right quality of protein will produce less milk, and if low protein rations are continued long enough, the milk will have a smaller percentage of fat. Apparently the cows need liberal feeding of legume forages or oil meals to provide enough protein for high milk production.

Second, about the fat. Milking cows that do not get enough fat in their rations do not produce as much milk as they are capable of producing. Corn and the cereal grains contain fat, but the richest source of fat for dairy cows is the old-process oil meals.

Now about vitamin A. Cows that do not get enough vitamin A lose their calves, or give birth to weak or blind calves. Cows may get into this condition in five months, if they are fed that long on poor-quality roughage. Good pasture in summer and fair-quality hay and silage in winter will protect cows from vitamin-A shortage.

But two of the minerals in the rations of dairy cows work in an unusual partnership. One of these is phosphorus and the other is calcium. Both are needed to make bones and milk. Each will do its full job only if the other is strong enough to do its full job. That is, too little of one of these minerals means that the cows suffer from too little of both.

Furthermore, cows need vitamin D in order to utilize calcium and phosphorus efficiently. In summer--sunlight supplies this need. But during the winter a cow needs a liberal quantity of good, sun-cured hay.



Most dairy-cow rations which include well-cured legume roughages contain enough calcium, and when adequate amounts of grain mixtures--properly balanced for protein content--are fed, they generally contain enough phosphorus. A shortage of phosphorus may occur when cattle are fed little or no grain mixture--especially if they are fed roughages (including pastures) grown on soil that is low in fertility.

It's difficult to keep good dairy cows producing their best without giving them one or more of the concentrates rich in phosphorus, such as wheat bran, linseed meal or other oil meals, or bone meal.

And now, finally about iodine. Cows that don't get enough iodine give birth to calves with goiters. Most Illinois dairymen will have no trouble from a shortage of iodine. The dairymen in Illinois who are likely to have trouble are the ones in parts of the state around Lake Michigan. In that part of Illinois the soil and water sometimes don't have enough iodine and so animals don't get enough. Where there is a shortage of iodine, dairymen can make up for it by feeding iodized stock salt.

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(1:15) A final note about tractors.

A tractor that receives the best of care and is operated a large number of days each year will do many more hours of work during its life than a tractor with intermittent operation and poor care, according to R. I. Shawl of the University of Illinois College of Agriculture.





Shaw points out that there are many ways to reduce the necessity of costly repairs. One way is to use high-grade oils, greases and fuels supplied from clean containers. Checking a tractor for repairs and adjustments each year, or at other regular intervals, will help locate all the loose bolts and nuts and the parts that need adjusting or replacing, a precaution that prevents serious delays in the field.

It is with this thought in mind that farm advisers throughout Illinois are now holding a series of tractor schools in cooperation with the Extension Service of the University of Illinois College of Agriculture. These schools--lasting for a period of two days in each county--deal with tractor parts, fuels, lubricants, costs and a number of other items of interest to the tractor operator. If you own or operate a tractor--and want to learn more about how to get the most use out of it--you might wish to contact your local farm adviser about the dates when the tractor school will be held in your county.

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CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENT: ( :10) And that concludes today's ILLINOIS FARM FLASH presented by Station \_\_\_\_\_ in cooperation with the College of Agriculture, University of Illinois and the United States Department of Agriculture.



SIXTY-SEVENTH  
ILLINOIS FARM FLASH

(From the U. S. Department of Agriculture  
(and Extension Service in Agriculture and  
(Home Economics, College of Agriculture,  
(University of Illinois

Speaking time: 6 3/4 minutes

December 18, 1939

(FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY)

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT: (:20) THE ILLINOIS FARM FLASH-----presented in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture and the College of Agriculture, University of Illinois. These agricultural reports come to you as a public service of Station\_\_\_\_. Today we'll hear about the KARAKULS, KEEPING CHRISTMAS TREES FRESH, and FARM AND HOME WEEK.

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(2:15) You know--the FORTY-SECOND ANNUAL FARM AND HOME WEEK will be held at the University of Illinois College of Agriculture in Urbana-Champaign from January 8 to 12, inclusive.

Every visitor is urged to register immediately upon arrival. There is no registration fee. Headquarters for registration will be maintained in the Auditorium during the entire week.

Farm and Home Week guests will have a chance to see, among other attractions, many exhibits pertaining to subjects of both agricultural and general interest. A brief description of these displays will be found in the printed program now available for distribution. You can secure your free copy by writing directly to the College of Agriculture at Urbana.

Meals may be secured at numerous restaurants near the University campus. Noon lunch will be served at the Home Economics Cafeteria in the Woman's Building. There will also be a lunch stand operated by the Agricultural Engineering students in the Agricultural Engineering Building.



Now a word about the program itself. At the first general session on Monday afternoon, January 8, H. P. Rusk, Dean of the College of Agriculture, University of Illinois, will speak on the land-use-planning program in Illinois. On Tuesday--the export outlook for livestock products will be given by Warren W. Shoemaker, an official of one of the Chicago packing companies. Wednesday--Dr. Mark A. Dawber, Executive Secretary, Home Missions Council, New York, will talk about the place of the rural home and the rural community in American life. The control of cancer through education will be discussed by Dr. Maud Slye, of the University of Chicago, on Thursday. The general session on Friday morning will climax the week as Mrs. John W. Clifton, Milford, and A. O. Eckert, Belleville, give their views on the prospect for better rural living in Illinois.

Besides the general sessions there are many sessions devoted to individual interests. Crops, soils, insect control, livestock, dairy, machinery, fruits, vegetables, forestry, marketing, rural youth and 4-H Clubs all have a part in the program for the week.

Plan now to attend the FORTY-SECOND ANNUAL FARM AND HOME WEEK at the University of Illinois College of Agriculture in Urbana-Champaign from January 8 to 12.

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(2:00) Now we're going to talk about sheep--Karakuls. Our report comes from W. G. Kammlade, of the University of Illinois College of Agriculture. Kammlade says that quite a number of Illinois people have been inquiring about this breed of sheep. In fact, he's received more questions about Karakuls than about any of the other breeds.





The Karakul is peculiar among sheep--because it's one of the breeds showing the broad or flat-tailed character. Also, the pelts of the lambs possess certain characteristics which make them suitable for furs. Karakuls are credited with a high degree of hardiness and are usually considered to be more adaptable to semi-arid regions in the south and southwest. However, this isn't proof that the breed won't thrive in other sections of the country.

This breed doesn't rank high in comparison to some of the more highly developed mutton types as producers of high-quality meat. Neither does it rank high as a wool producer because of the color and coarseness of the wool. But the outstanding feature of Karakul is the character of the pelt of the lambs at birth and for a short time afterwards. The sale of pelts determines the final outcome of a Karakul sheep enterprise.

The pelts are of several different types and are referred to as Broadtail, Persian, Krimmer, Astrakan and Caracul. The price may range from twenty-five cents to \$10.00.

So you can see the production of high-quality pelts offers some possibilities for profits. But Kammlade says it's unwise for anyone who does not know what constitutes high quality in furs--or who doesn't understand the details of breeding, feeding, pelting, marketing and so on to expect a greater return from Karakuls than from other types of sheep. After the industry is further developed in this country, reasonable profits may be obtained from the sale of pelts. However, Karakul production is likely to be a phase of sheep production suited to specialization rather than for widespread development on many farms.

So much for Karakul.

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(2:00) If you haven't already put up the Christmas tree-- and there are still some of us who haven't--here are some suggestions that may help to keep it fresh for a long time.

Keeping Christmas trees fresh and green for the duration of the holiday season may seem like quite a problem. But here are some suggestions if you want to prevent your tree from turning brown and shedding its needles too soon.

First of all be sure your tree is stored in a cool, damp place until you're ready to use it. Keeping Christmas trees in hot, dry rooms before setting them up is fatal.

When you're ready to bring the tree into the living room to set it up--take a good sharp knife or wood chisel and make a diagonal cut across the stem--near the butt--to expose the fresh green wood. This is to get rid of wood that has dried out and will no longer conduct moisture to the top. Then when you put the tree in place make arrangements so this bared part of the trunk will rest either in a tub of water or a box of wet sand. This permits moisture to be drawn up the trunk and compensates for the moisture evaporating from the bark and needles of the tree. The difference this kind of arrangement makes in preserving the tree is remarkable.

That's one way to keep your tree fresh without any special equipment or undue work. There's another way, equally or even more effective but somewhat more complicated, that is known as the chemical solution method. The chemical method goes like this.

Set the tree with its butt in a wide-mouth container capable of holding about a gallon of liquid. Then, mix five grams of citric



acid--I'll repeat that--five grams of citric--c-i-t-r-i-c acid and six grams of malic acid--m-a-l-i-c acid--in three quarts--three quarts of water. Then add fifteen grams of calcium--c-a-l-c-i-u-m carbonate to this acid solution and pour the whole mixture into the container. As the tree uses up the solution, just add more water. The chemicals called for in this method are inexpensive, and with the exception of hemlock, they work well for practically all kinds of Christmas trees.

For most purposes--unless you want the tree to last extra long--the first method, using plain water, will probably be wholly satisfactory.

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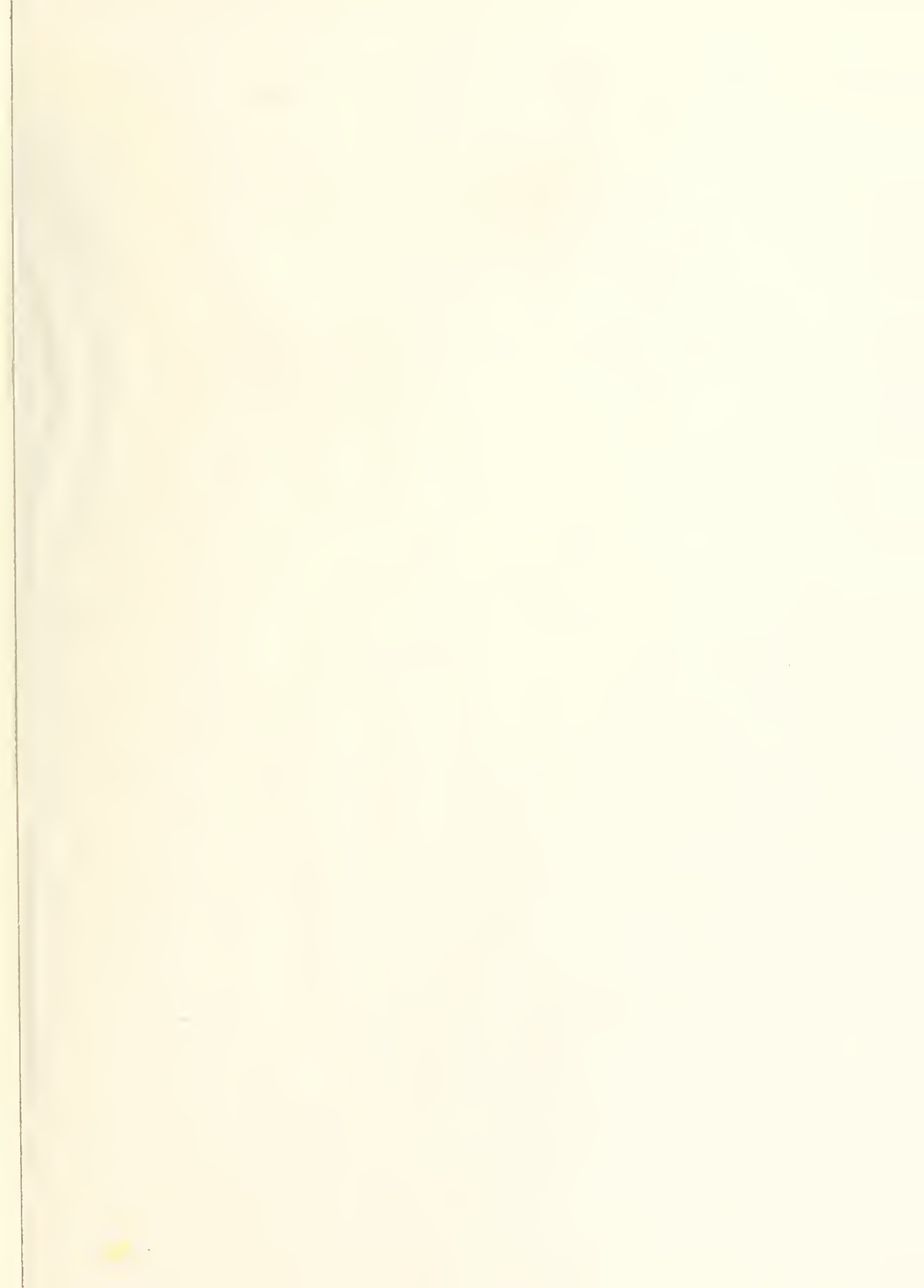
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